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IN THE DRAWINGS

The figure has been amended by placing the label "FIG. 1" thereon.

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REMARKS

The disclosure stands rejected because of the following informality: There is a reference to "figure 1" in the specification; however, the drawing is not labeled "figure 1" as such. Applicant has amended FIG. 1 to include the label "FIG. 1" thereon. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 to correct the informalities. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-12 stand rejected for various uses of indefinite claim terms. Applicant has amended the claims to include definite terms or alternatively, deleted the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 103(a)

Claim 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP Patent Application 0 102 844 of Polysar Limited in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,064,922 of Farber, *et al.* Polysar discloses a tire having puncture-sealing characteristics, the tire comprising as the inner liner an irradiated laminate. (Polysar, p. 1, lines 2-5). Polysar discloses that the essence of its invention is the laminate,

the inner layer of which is a puncture-sealing laminate, the inner layer of which is a polymer degraded by irradiation, such that when both the inner liner is penetrated by a puncture means and when the puncturing means is removed, sealing of the inner liner will occur at the point of puncture, such sealing being by the degraded polymer of the inner liner of the laminate.

Polysar, p. 5, lines 15-25.

Farber disclosed a puncture sealing composition in which the high molecular weight component is in a minor amount of the composition. (Farber, Abstract). Farber further disclosed

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the importance of maintaining the high molecular weight in the minor amount of the composition. (Farber,

Applicant claims a tire and method having, *inter alia*, a puncture-sealant composition covering an interior surface of the tire, the puncture sealing composition comprising a majority amount of the high molecular weight component and ground rubber. (Claims 1 and 15).

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974). All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art. *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385 (CCPA 1970).

Applicant respectfully asserts that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented for independent claims 1 and 15 as amended for failing to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claimed invention. Specifically, Polysar does not disclose that the sealant can be used in an interior surface of the tire. Farber teaches against the claims being examined because Farber teaches that the high molecular weight elastomer must be in a minor amount of the sealant. Neither also teaches the use of ground rubber in the composition.

Therefore, because the prior art references fail to disclose each and every limitation claimed therein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 and 11.

Claim 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP Patent Application 0 102 844 of Polysar Limited in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,064,922 of Farber, *et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,856,376 of Wong. Since neither Polysar nor Farber disclosed use of ground rubber in the sealant composition, Wong was included as a prior art reference as teaching the use of ground rubber in sealants.

The remarks concerning Polysar and Farber made above are incorporated herein.

Wong discloses a sealant having ground rubber as a component. (Wong, Abstract). Wong discloses a sealant that is water based and contains only about 3% styrene butadiene latex. (Wong, Abstract). Wong further discloses that the rubbers should be surface activated. (Wong, Abstract).

The sealant composition disclosed by Wong is entirely different than the sealant composition claimed by Applicant. As Wong discloses, water comprises from 6 to 64% water of

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the disclosed sealant composition and from 36 to 94% ethylene glycol. (Wong, col. 4, lines 63-66). There is no teaching or suggestion by Wong to add ground rubber to a sealant composition that comprises elastomers, which is the invention claimed by Applicant. Wong only teaches that ground rubber can be added to a water based sealant composition.

Therefore, because Wong fails to teach or suggest that ground rubber may be added to an elastomer based sealant, Applicant respectfully asserts that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance and requests the timely issuance of the Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite the examination of this pending patent application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the below signed attorney at the convenience of the Examiner. In the event there are any fees or charges associated with the filing of these documents, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-3085 for any necessary amount.

Respectfully submitted,

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